

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Green Guardians: The Vital Role of Herbaceous Plants in Ecosystems

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Herbaceous plants provide food and habitat for wildlife, supporting diverse ecosystems and contributing to the balance of predator-prey relationships.
2. Examples of herbaceous plants used in traditional medicine include Echinacea for immune support and St. John's wort for mood disorders.
3. Preserving and restoring habitats with herbaceous plants is important for conservation efforts because it helps maintain biodiversity, protect endangered species, and preserve ecosystem services such as pollination and soil fertility.
4. Herbaceous plants contribute to the regulation of climate and nutrient cycles by sequestering carbon in their tissues, releasing oxygen during photosynthesis, and cycling nutrients through decomposition and nutrient uptake processes.

